

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 NSC-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 EB-08 AID-05 OMB-01

SP-02 XMB-02 STR-04 /064 W

-----098419 280238Z /70

R 261612Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9298

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY BISSAU

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, EGEN, XX, US, GH

SUBJ: ECOWAS

REF: (A) STATE 159681; (B) ACCRA 4613

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1. FOLLOWING ARE EMBASSY'S REPLIES TO QUESTIONS IN  
PARAGRAPH TWO OF REFTEL A; LETTERS ARE KEYED TO QUESTIONS.

A. GOG OFFICIALS, PUBLICLY AND IN PRIVATE, SEEM COMMITTED  
TO ECOWAS. RELATIVE TO MOST OTHER MEMBERS, GHANA HAS LARGE  
NUMBER OF TRAINED OFFICIALS AND COST SHOULD NOT BE BURDEN.

B. GHANA DOES NOT BELONG OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT SHOULD CONFLICT WITH ECOWAS GOALS.

C. GHANA HAS A WEAK CURRENCY AND CONTINUING FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONSTRAINT. WITH MORE REALISTIC EXCHANGE RATE, LACK OF COMMON CURRENCY SHOULD NOT BE BARRIER TO IMPLEMENTATION OF TREATY. WEST AFRICAN CLEARING HOUSE SHOULD FACILITATE PAYMENTS.

D. TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINKS BETWEEN GHANA AND OTHER MEMBERS EXIST ONLY THROUGH EUROPE. ROAD AND AIR TRANSPORT LINKS ARE GENERALLY ADEQUATE BUT GHANA HAS NO RAIL LINKS WITH OTHER NATIONS.

E. TRADE STRUCTURE IS GENERALLY COMPETITIVE WITH OTHER MEMBERS.

F. MOST OBSERVERS AGREE THAT GOALS SET FORTH IN DEVELOPMENT PLAN ARE UNREALISTIC AND CANNOT BE ACHIEVED. AGRICULTURE IS TO BE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, AND WILL RECEIVE LARGEST SHARE OF INVESTMENTS FUNDS. THIS MAY WELL INCREASE COMPETITION WITH OTHER ECOWAS MEMBERS. INDUSTRY MAY BE BETTER AREA FOR COOPERATION AND GHANA, TOGO AND IVORY COAST ARE JOINTLY DEVELOPING CEMENT PROJECT UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN TOGO.

G. THE AMOUNT OF THE FUND IS NOT ESTABLISHED, BUT GHANA'S SHARE IS TO BE AROUND 17 PERCENT. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL DOES NOT SEE THIS AS A PROBLEM.

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H. CUSTOMS DUTIES AND OTHER TRADE RELATED TAXES INCLUDING EXPORT DUTIES ACCOUNT FOR 41 PERCENT OF PLANNED CURRENT REVENUES IN 1976-77 BUDGET.

I. DIFFICULT TO COMMENT ON ADEQUACY OF FUND, THE SIZE OF WHICH HAS YET TO BE DETERMINED. PRESUMABLY, COMPENSATION TO COUNTRIES LOSING REVENUES COULD BE LIMITED. COMPENSATION TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE SUFFERED LOSSES BECAUSE OF LOCATION OF COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES APPEARS TO BE THE MOST TROUBLESOME ASPECT OF PLAN.

J. UNLIKELY THAT PRESENT TARGETS WILL BE MET AS SCHEDULED, BUT

K. ECOWAS SHOULD PROMOTE US INVESTMENT IN MORE FAVORABLY LOCATED MEMBERS. SHIRT IN TRADE TO ECOWAS SOURCES UNLIKELY TO SERIOUSLY REDUCE US EXPORTS TO MEMBERS COUNTRIES.

L. ACCORDING TO TREATY, FUND CAN ACCEPT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES AND CAN FINANCE PROJECTS AND USE RESOURCES TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. THUS, FUND IS POTENTIAL VEHICLE FOR CHANNELING ASSISTANCE TO REGION.

SMITH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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